

# NEWTON YOUTH COMMISSION Meeting

## February 3, 2010 MINUTES

Location: Newton City Hall War Memorial Auditorium

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| Present: | Commissioners Joe De Vito (Chair), Richard Dyer, Donna Gordon; Advisory Members Matt Green, Peter Harrington, Ofc. Jeff Mace, Ellen Manning, Terance Sack, Kirsten Tuohy<br><u>Students</u> : Zachary Eagle, Gerry Lueng,                        |
| Regrets: | Commissioner Robert Staulo; Advisory Members Tony Bibbo, Marianne Cook, Chris Fortunato, Stephanie Pelkowsky, Stephan Ross, John Staulo,<br><u>Students</u> : Tamara Matama, Kyle Olson, Zoe Pepper-Cunningham, Adam Sangiolo, Ariana Tabatabaie |
| Staff:   | Beverly Droz, Director, Human and Volunteer Services   |
| Guests:  | Lt. Bruce Apotheker (Police) and Rich Catrambone (NSHS)  |

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The meeting was opened at 7:05 PM and chaired by Joe De Vito.

Introductions were made. We welcomed Lt. Bruce Apotheker and Rich Catrambone, the NSHS counselor who initiated the program at NSHS three years ago and who has presented to the Youth Commission at other meetings. Bev noted that Mark Hall from The Newton Partnership had a conflicting meeting this evening.

**A motion** was made and approved to accept the minutes of January 6, 2010.  
There is nothing new for the Treasurer's report.

### Restorative Justice

Joe gave a brief overview of how the Youth Commission was involved with consideration of sponsoring the Restorative Justice (RJ) Program. He reminded members we had voted to sponsor a public forum on it.

Donna Gordon, who is chairing our RJ Committee, stated that if we are going to pursue Restorative Justice in the community, there has to be a Pilot Program to serve as a guideline to accomplish it.

Donna handed out a RJ Pilot Program rough draft and the Youth Commission reviewed it thoroughly, discussing some points and making some changes. (The draft will be on file with these minutes). The draft contained a Statement of Purpose with the goals and the agencies we expect to partner with us; Implementation proposals; and the RJ Pilot Program Process.

Some of the discussion points included:

- ☐ Starting small in Newton with a limited number of cases, expectations and timeline
- ☐ Having it at the Clerk's level so the Clerk of the Courts makes the decision as to which cases go to RJ (We noted the Police can't chose which cases go through court versus diversion programs.)
- ☐ Clarifying details; making a brochure to explain the RJ Program and answer basic questions
- ☐ Meeting with the judges and clerks to further discuss; if the Waltham Court does not agree, we should still be able to pursue it with the Newton Clerk
- ☐ Sending this draft proposal to The Newton Partnership for their approval
- ☐ Have a community night to present the RJ Pilot Program and garner support from interested residents

For the community night, members agreed on Tuesday, March 23 at 7pm at the Teen Center, 429 Cherry St, W. Newton.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM.

The next meeting **will be Wednesday, March 3 at 7:00PM**